ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION and INQUIRY

Concerning Matters Eccleſiaſticall,
according to the Laws and Canons of the
Church of *ENGLAND*,

EXHIBITED
To the Miniſters, Church-Wardens, and Sidemen of every Pariſh within the *Dioceſe* of

Rocheſter,

By the Right Reverend Father in God,

JOHN

Lord Biſhop of *ROCHESTER*.

LONDON:
Printed by *J. G.* for *Richard Royſton*, Bookſeller
to His moſt Sacred Majeſty, 1662.

The Oath to be given unto the Church-wardens and Side-men of every Pariſh.

YOu ſhall Swear to inquire with the beſt diligence that you may, and to make a true Anſwer unto every Article of this Book now given you in Charge; Preſenting every Perſon of your Pariſh that hath done any Offence, or omitted any Duty therein mentioned. And this you ſhall do without any Favour or hatred, or fear of Diſpleaſure; *So help you God, and the contents of his Holy Goſpel.*

ARTICLES OF INQUIRY

Within the DIOCESE of *ROCHESTER.*

Inquiries about the Church and Church-yard.

I. IS your Parish-Church and Chancel decently kept for Gods Honour? Are the Roofs, Walls, Pavements and Windows well repaired? are the Ten Commandements, Lords Prayer and the Creed, drawn out in fair Letters in convenient places? and are the Kings Arms set up?

II. HAVE you made Leavies for the reparation of the Church, and other holy uses? And are there any that refuse to pay the proportion levyed upon them?

III. HAVE you a Font of Stone decently covered, standing towards the lower end of the Church, for the Ad-

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ministration of Baptism? Have you a comely Table placed conveniently in Church or Chancel for the use of the Lords Supper? Have you a comely Carpet of Silk or good Stuff for that holy Table, with a fair Linnen Cloth to spread upon it in the time of Administration? And have you an handsome Cup of Silver for the Wine, and a Cover of Silver to the same to put the Bread on? And have you one or more Flaggons of Pewter or better metall for that use?

IV. ARE your reading Desk and Pulpit conveniently set up and placed for the use of publick Prayer and Sermons? And hath your Pulpit a Cushion and comely covering before it?

V. HAVE you in your Church the Common-Prayer-Book in Folio, last set forth by Authority? And have you the Bible in Folio fairly bound, of King James's Translation? Have you also a decent Surplice (one or more) for your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, to wear in the time of all publick Ministrations?

VI. ARE the Tombs, Monuments, Gravestones of the Dead in your Church or Church-yard preserved; and not suffered to be broken, taken down or removed?

VII. HAVE you a Book of Parchment, wherein be Registred the Christnings, Marriages, and Burials in your Parish? Have you a strong Chest, with three Locks, wherein to preserve your Church Furniture? and a Box for Alms, placed in a fit place, for the Relief of the Poor?

VIII. IS the House and Out-houses of your Minister in good and sufficient repair? Doth he preserve the Gardens, Orchards, and Glebe belonging to him, without imbezelling, changing, or any way damnifying them?

IX. IS The Church-yard decently kept, and well fenced to kæp out Beasts?

Inquiries about the Parson, Vicar, Curate, Lecturer.

I. HAVE the above-named received Episcopal Ordination, according to the Laws of the Kingdome?

II. CAN you tell who did present your Parson or Vicar to his Benefice? Have you heard or known, that he came Simoniacally? Was he inducted into his Benefice before sufficient witnesse? And did he read the nine and thirty Articles before or at Morning or Evening Prayer? And did he give his consent to them?

III. HATH he read the Book of Common-Prayer, as it is injoyned by the late Act of Uniformity for publick Prayer, Administration of the Sacraments, &c. on some Sunday before the four and twentieth of August last past? Or, in case of impediment allowed by the Ordinary of the place, hath he since performed the same? And did, and doth he wear the Surplice while he performed that Office, and other Offices mentioned in that Common-Prayer-Book?

IV. HATH he published his consent unto the said Book on some Sunday before the four and twentieth of August above-named, or within the time limited by the said Act, openly in time of Divine Service; and hath he subscribed to the Declaration, as it is exprest in the 77. page of the above-named Statute, and manifested it to the Congregation openly?

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V. DOTH he preach a Sermon on every Sunday, or procure a Sermon then to be preach'd? Or else sometimes read one of the Homilies which the Church hath appointed? And doth he often on Sundayes and Holy-dayes, before Divine Service, instruct his Parishioners in the Catechism of the Church?

VI. DOTH he read the Service appointed for the fifth of November, thirtieth of January, twenty ninth of May? And doth he keep the yearly Perambulation and Rogation dayes before the Feast of our Lords Ascension?

VII. IF your Parson or Vicar kéep a Curate, is he of godly Life and sufficient Learning? Is he allowed by the Bishop, and can you tell whether the said Curate have a competent allowance according to the value of the Living?

VIII. DOTH your Parish maintaine a Lecturer? Is he a Vertuous and Orthodox Divine? Is he Licensed by the Bishop? Doth he read the full Divine Service of Common Prayer once a Moneth at the least, wearing a Surplice?

IX. DO you observe to your best understanding, that your Parson, Vicar, Lecturer or Curate, do preach the true Word of God? Or do they to your judgment (having consulted with other grave Parishioners) vent dangerous Opinions, derogating to the Glory of God, and a pious Life? Do they teach Sedition directly against His Majesty, his Laws and Government, or do you note that indirectly they cast out seditious glances against the Civil State, or Government Ecclesiastical?

X. DOTH your Minister celebrate the Lords Supper in the Church, according to the Service of the Common-Prayer-Book, often every year? Doth he repulse them from it that are scandalous by the sentence of the Laws?

Laws? Doth he Baptize such Infants of his Parish according to the Service of the Common Prayer, as upon warning given before are brought on Sundayes or Holy-dayes to the Church, with God-fathers and God-mothers, and upon lawful Summons doth he Baptize Infants at home in case of danger and necessity?

XI. DOTH he visit the Sick at their Houses when he is required upon lawful summons? Doth he pray with them, exhort them to Faith and Repentance, and comfort them? Doth he give them the Holy Communion, professing Faith in Christ, and sorrow for their sins, if they require it; and doth he exhort them to Brotherly Love, and works of Charity, if they be able to bequeath a portion to pious uses?

XII. DOTH he prepare the young Men and Maidens of the Parish to be confirmed by the Bishop? Doth he marry none clandestinely, but at due hours in the Church, and that upon Banes thrice published on Sundayes or Holy-dayes, or License obtained from the Spiritual Court? And doth he bury the Dead according to the Book of Common Prayer?

XIII. IS your Minister, Lecturer, Curate, a man of sober, chaste, just, unblameable Life? And spare not to present him or them that are not every way examples of Godliness.

XIV. DOTH your Minister with the Church-wardens take care duly every year to send in the Names of all such in his Parish as have been Baptized, Married, Buried, Excommunicated, that they may be inrolled in the Bishops Registry?

XV. DOTH your Minister maintain peace with his Neighbours, and study to keep them in peace as much as in him lyes? Doth he take diligent care to reduce all

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Inquiries about the Parishioners.

I. DO all your Parishioners of due age resort to the Divine Service and Sermons in your Church on Sundayes and Holy-dayes, and on Wednesday and Friday mornings if conveniently they can?

II. DO they or any of their Servants occupy themselves in bodily labours on Sundayes or Holy-dayes? Do they open their Shops and sell Wares on those dayes? Or do Vintners, Victuallers, Inne-keepers, or others, receive any into their houses to tipple and waste time idely on those dayes; except they be Travellers that are upon a journey in necessary occasions?

III. DO your Parishioners in the time of Divine Service, Sermon or Homily, behave themselves reverently? Men and Youths with their Hats off, both Sexes giving due attention, none disturbing holy duties by talking, walking, removing, going out, or using any other offence? And do they all kneel, stand up, make answers, in time of Divine Service, as you find it appointed in the Rubricks of the Common-Prayer-Book?

IV. SUCH as may be discerned to be Papists, Hereticks, Schismaticks, Anabaptists, Separatists, Quakers, and the like, are not onely to be presented, but twelve pence is to be Leavied on every such person, and so many of them for every Sunday as absent themselves from the Church,

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and to be employed to the maintenance of the Poor, whereof account is to be made to the Justices of the Peace?

V. SUCH are to be presented as are known and much suspected to be Incestuous, or to be married in Incestuous or unlawful degrées of Blood; likewise you ought to present known Adulterers, Fornicators, Blasphemers, common Swearers, Drunkards, Sorcerers, or Resorters to Sorcerers.

VI. ARE there any above the age of sixtéen years in your Parish, and especially that have béen examined by your Minister in the Catechism before, that do not come to the Lords Supper, to partake it reverently upon their knées three times every year at the least, the Feast of Easter or the time thereabout being one?

VII. ARE there any in your Parish that kéep their Children unbaptized? Inquire diligently, and return the Parents or Governours names, and the list of those Children by such names as you can learn.

VIII. DO all Women that have béen safely delivered come to the Church in due time to partake of the Office of Thanksgiving after the Orders of the Common Prayer, and do such Women pay their accustomed Duties?

IX. DO your Parishioners bring their Dead to be decently buried after the Service of the Church in their own Parish grounds? Or if they carry the Dead away to be buried in some other place, whether they be Lodgers or other Strangers, do they first obtain leave of the Minister of the Parish, and have his Certificate?

X. DO any of your Parish usually frequent other Parish Churches, and absent themselves from their own?

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XI. ARE there any that keep private Conventicles in their houses or abroad, which are resorted to by those that are known or suspected for Sectaries, or any way disaffected to the present Church of England?

XII. DO your Parishioners pay their Easter-Offerings and accustomed Duties, called Vicaradge Tithes, or by any other name, to their Minister?

XIII. ARE there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that are not proved by a lawful Judge, or do you know or hear of any goods administred without due grant from the Ordinary?

XIV. WHAT Legacies have been given to pious uses in your Parish, which are utterly defrauded, or not imployed to the right use, according to the Will of the Donor?

XV. ARE your Seats and Pews in the Church decently kept? And are the Parishioners placed in them without offence and contention?

Inquiries about Church-Officers, and other Persons.

I. IF any Stranger come to preach in your Parish Church or Chappel, on Sundayes and Holy-dayes, at Christnings, Funerals, Marriages, or any other occasion, do the Church-wardens demand to see his Orders and License to preach, which he had from the Bishop? And if he can shew none, do you inhibit him from Preaching?

II. DO you suffer excommunicated Persons to be Buryed in any part of your Church, Chancel, or Church-yard?

III. DOTH your Parish Clerk and Sexton (if you have any such) do their Duties obediently and diligently? Are they of honest Life and conversation? Is your Parish Clerk duely chosen by the Minister? And is he allowed by the Ordinary? Can he write and read? Doth he make Responsions to the Hymns and other Suffrages of the Liturgy?

IV. IS there a School publick or private in your Parish? Is the School-Master (and Usher if he have one) allowed by the Bishop or his Chancellour? Doth he bred his Scholars Religiously? and doth he teach them the Church Catechisme?

V. HAVE you any Physician, Chirurgeon or Mid-wife in your Parish, that practise without Licence?

VI. ARE your Church-wardens duely chosen in the week after Easter day, and after the custom and manner of the Parish?

VII. HAVE the Church-wardens, who are to surrender their places upon the Election of new ones, given up their accounts to the Parishioners? and are their accounts allowed? or have they falsifyed their trust? wherein? and how much?

VIII. ALSO have your Church-wardens been diligent to repair the Church, to keep it decent and comely? Have they preserved the Font for Baptisme fit and handsome for that use? Likewise have they looked carefully to the Communion Table, to the Plate, and all Utensils pertaining

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LEt the Church-wardens and Side-men inquire Diligently what answers they will and can give to all these particulars upon Oath, setting the fear of God and the good of his Church before their Eyes.

FINIS.